

# the Propagator

International Plant Propagators' Society <http://aus.ipps.org/>  
Australian Region - Newsletter Summer 2021 - No: 69

## A Passion for Gardening

Francis Bacon (1625) in 'Essays Of Gardens' wrote ***“God Almighty first planted a garden. And indeed, it is the purest of human pleasures ... ”***

One of our first passions was probably for plants and flowers. Like all pursuits then at some time in our life we have probably decided that we need to know more. Talk to many of our fellow members and you will find that they started with a collection that grew and grew until it became more than a hobby but a career. Bringing joy to more folk along the way and feeding their passion as well.

Along the way though at some time you decide that you need to know more about this business of growing and selling plants. How to be flexible in the range grown to meet consumer demand and the challenges (which I like to view as opportunities) encountered through weather, pests and disease, and economic swings arising from things like financial crisis or pandemics. You also realise that as part of your marketing you need to be competitive, and you might start thinking about means to competitive advantage.

The delivery mode of horticultural training has changed over recent years to include online and on-the-job aspects for certificate and online for degree courses. The big challenge the industry faces though is attracting younger people to horticulture and keeping them. Next Gen and Young Grower type programmes assist in creating peer networks.

IPPS membership also provides the opportunity for all

people new to the industry (young or life changers), or been in it for years to learn from others. The “seek and share” motto of IPPS could also be seen as a way for businesses to gain a competitive advantage over those who keep their growing methods or techniques secret.

Attending IPPS conferences has enabled members to see many of innovations in breeding and growing plants, structures and automation available in Australia and around the world. You gain access to information allowing you to understand the differences our relatively small market imposes and overseas market trends. We can also look forward to the time when our international exchange programmes start again.

What needs to change, as many growers have small capital resources? And at what risk given current low interest borrowing rates compared with comparatively high lease costs? Perhaps a better question is who will drive the change, is it the new young generation of entrepreneurial growers that are not afraid to gamble on the future or large organisations?

Then again we can all review what we are currently doing and potentially make some small incremental improvements in what we are doing. I hope that next year we can renew our plants passion. Looking forward to our conference next year at Leura. Have a great Christmas and a happy New Year.

Bruce Higgs

### THIS EDITION

**A Passion for Gardening**  
**2022 Conference, Leura NSW**  
**Lighting for Protected Cropping**  
**Book Release – Off the Garden Path**  
**News – Vale Graeme Platt**

Reports  
**President’s Report**  
**Executive Officer’s Report**  
**International Directors Report**  
**Newsletter Editors Comment**

## President's Report

Hello to fellow members,

None of us has not been touched or effected by Covid restrictions, frustrating as they are we all await border restrictions to be lifted and then see what happens.

Meanwhile life continues and the seasons keep rolling on, people are planting whether its plantations or the vegie patches, they are out there making the most of tough decisions made on their behalf. Thus we are in the same boat, organising the future with our fingers crossed hoping that nothing will derail us from achieving our aim. Yes I am talking about our up and coming conference in May 22. Bruce Higgs (and his committee) has been diligently working their way through the programmes and functions, chasing sponsors and organising tours etc. getting it all ready for us all to get together again.

Life in Tasmania has been pretty good over the past year, though the weather has been quite cool and overall quite wet. This has effected the retail market, plus delayed some major crops to be planted (peas, poppies, potatoes especially) though the dairy farmers are happy with plenty of feed and silage having been cut throughout the island. The garden industry is catching up with a cool and wet spring, we feel that sales will continue right through December up to Christmas. It will be interesting to see if we have our cherries before Christmas this year, there could be a glut of fruit available in January. Who in their right mind would want to be a farmer with all the uncertainties they face!

Wishing you all a happy and safe festive season, I look forward to catching up with you in the new year.

Cheers

Tony Vander Staay



## Executive Officer's Report

It is very encouraging, coming into the Christmas Season, to see the borders will be re-opening. With the easing of COVID-19 travel restrictions across the country, you can now make that trip you have been putting off, be it for business or pleasure.

We know that like us, you are all doing your best to protect your business, your loved ones and yourselves.

Stay safe and well over the Christmas Season.

### IPPS OFFICE

Even though the IPPS Office slows down at this time of the year, I am still kept busy tending to general office and in-house duties.



### **Membership Subscription Renewal**

Members will shortly receive an automated renewal notice generated from the International Board advising that your IPPS Membership will expire on 01.01.2022.

The Australian Region Office will still manage membership subscriptions and I will be sending out Tax Invoice for Membership Renewals to all Members in January 2022.

**If you experience difficulties please do not hesitate to contact me. Credit Card or EFT facility are the preferred payment options.**



**YES IT IS ALL SYSTEMS GO NOW FOR NEXT YEARS BIG 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE – LEURA NSW - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022. MARK THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY & CALENDER**

**IPPS 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 2022 'Looking Back, Looking Forward' - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – Conference Venue: Fairmont Resort & Spa, 1 Sublime Point Road, Leura NSW 2780**

Conference Registration Forms along with information will be available for downloading early 2022 from the International website: [www.ipps.org](http://www.ipps.org)

***I look forward to finally 'once again' catching up with Members next year in Leura, NSW.***



**Have you checked out the NEW International website yet? Please contact me if you have forgotten your log-in details.**

## **Great online features!**

### **Mobile friendly**

Looks great on mobile devices too. Web content adapts beautifully to any screen size.

### **Proceedings library**

Access to all past and current Proceedings, conveniently in the members' only online section. Download individual papers or a complete volume with a click of a button.

### **Searchable database**

Find information you're looking for on the site quickly

### **Media Centre**

IPPS news articles, photo galleries and video galleries keeping you informed of IPPS activities worldwide.

### **Register for events online**

Access event information and do bookings online

### **Apply for membership online**

Apply for or renew annual membership online.

### **Ten websites, one system**

A professional look throughout all IPPS websites. The layout is clear and easy to navigate.

### **Japanese & Chinese characters**

On the Japan and China sites text can be entered in Japanese and Chinese

### **Dedicated IPPS hosting server**

Hosting service by GoDaddy in the USA, ensuring uninterrupted service.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

To ensure Office records are kept 'up to date' I would appreciate it if Members could please notify me of any changed contact details. In particular, if you have changed your telephone provider recently, *please* remember to forward your new email address onto me at [pam@ipps.org.au](mailto:pam@ipps.org.au)

Pam Berryman

## **IPPS Australian Region Board for 2021 - 2022**

Tony Vander Staay [tvanders@westlandnurseries.com.au](mailto:tvanders@westlandnurseries.com.au) *President*

Bruce Higgs [bruce.higgs@bigpond.com](mailto:bruce.higgs@bigpond.com) *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

Clive Larkman [larkman@larkmannurseries.com.au](mailto:larkman@larkmannurseries.com.au) *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.*

John Messina [johnmessina30@gmail.com](mailto:johnmessina30@gmail.com) *International Director*

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Pam Berryman (07) 38299767 [pam@ipps.org.au](mailto:pam@ipps.org.au) *CEO*

## **International Directors Report**

We all know how much the world has been shaken up by the pandemic. IPPS has been no exception. The 2020 International meeting in the Western Region was postponed until 2021 when the first wave of shutdowns occurred, and then cancelled after the next wave. The 2022 meeting in Japan had to be called off early because of uncertainty in the planning process.

That leaves us to wait until 2023 in the Southern Region of America, and 2024 in Southern Africa to be able to meet as an International group again.

The good news is that regional meetings are already happening. As I type this report, the Southern region of USA has just held its tour and conference in Mobile, Alabama. It seemed propagators were keen to get back to "Seeking & Sharing" after such a long break. The meeting was very well attended, and by all accounts a huge success. If you haven't seen the photo highlights yet, it's worth getting onto the "IPPS Southern Region" Facebook page to check them out. It has me looking forward with excitement to our own meeting in the Blue Mountains next year.

While you are online, check out the societies recently updated website at [www.ipps.org](http://www.ipps.org)

You can access the full history of proceedings, as well as information on meetings, programs and initiatives of all the regions worldwide.

Looking forward to seeing you all in May next year!

Cheers,

John Messina

# IPPS Conference 2022

50  
YEARS

## FAIRMONT RESORT & SPA BLUE MOUNTAINS

'Looking Back, Looking Forward'



Wednesday 4th May to Friday 6th May

Pre Conference Tour - Blue Mountains NSW - 2nd to 3rd May

Registrations NOW OPEN visit [www.ipps.org](http://www.ipps.org)

## 2022 50th Meeting and Conference

Wednesday May 4 to Friday May 6

'Looking Back, Looking Forward' is the theme for next year's conference. So that is why we are holding it close to where the first conference was held. We now have a great line-up of speakers, and as always there will be passionate plants-people to meet meet or catch up with and inspirational places to see.

- Enjoy a field trip day to inspiring nurseries that will provide you with some very stimulating conversation points, as well as the highest Cool Climate Botanical Gardens in Australia.

- Participate in the fun pre-conference tour from Penrith to the Fairmont Resort, Leura, via some iconic Blue Mountains sites, nurseries and gardens from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022

- This will be a not to be missed opportunity to network with like-minded businesses and suppliers

The Fairmont Resort at Leura offers an excellent venue with all the facilities that we have come to expect these days, and a great place to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The resort is located on the edge of the awe inspiring Jamison Valley in the heart of the Blue Mountains.

Our intent is that participants will have an enjoyable time, while learning about leading current and future trends in growing plants. We will also experience the fantastic views and history offered by this UNESCO recognised World Heritage region, based on its natural horticultural diversity.

The organising committee are currently seeking poster papers with historical photos and text for the conference, and would appreciate any offers of support. Please contact Pam Berryman or myself if you can help.

### Accessibility

The Conference venue at Leura is approximately 100 km West of Sydney Airport. It is readily accessible by car, taxi or shared [shuttle](#) services (around 90 minutes' drive), and by train from the airport to Lawson or Leura stations followed by taxi. The scenic train journey may take around 3 hours depending on connections.

The Fairmont Resort & Spa Blue Mountains is 5-minutes' drive from Leura Village and within 10-minutes' drive from both Wentworth Falls and the Three Sisters at Katoomba. The Leura Golf Club is only a 1-minute walk from the conference venue.

The weather in Leura during May is typically classed as mild and reasonably dry. Early May is start of autumn in Leura and is typically the 4th coldest month of the year. Daytime maximum temperatures average around a cool 17°C (62°F), whilst at night 5°C (42°F) is normal.

The Edwardian village of Leura (elevation 985m) is a popular local tourist destination, and features gardens and a cherry tree lined main road centre island.

### Accommodation

We recommend accommodation for the conference at the [Fairmont Resort & Spa, Blue Mountains](#), 1 Sublime Point Rd, Leura, New South Wales. When you call please mention that you are booking for the IPPS Conference and ask for the special conference rate for your stay. The contact number for the Fairmont Resort is: (02) 4785 0000.

There are a number of other accommodation choices nearby, with the closest hotel (600m) being the [Nesuto Leura Gardens Hotel](#), 20-28 Fitzroy St, Leura (02) 4784 4000.

### WELCOME FUNCTION:

Registrations will open prior to our evening function. The evening of Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May at FAIRMONT RESORT will provide a great venue to relax and socialise. A casual event starting off with a few nibbles and drinks will provide the opportunity for networking and re-acquainting with old friends and the opportunity to meet new ones.

### GOLF:

Leura golf course (est. 1902) is the oldest course in the Blue Mountains and delegates will have some spectacular views of the Jamison Valley while enjoying 18 holes of challenging golf. Delegates are welcome to attend and participate in this 18-hole event. This IPPS event will be organised by long time golf enthusiast Tony Ferraro on the afternoon of Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May. Register your interest on the Registration Form.

**THURSDAY**– Will be conference sessions, Poster displays focused on horticultural history, and trade exhibits displaying the latest in growing innovations.

### THURSDAY NIGHT GALA DINNER:

Our formal dinner is one to enjoy some exquisite food and wine, test your plant knowledge and come prepared to bid on some items supporting IPPS Youth Initiatives. We also recognise our worthy recipients of various awards for services to the Horticulture Industry.

### FRIDAY & EVENING:

Friday morning starts with the Fellows breakfast and brief AGM, then we join the coaches for Nursery/business tours and visits to some local attractions; finishing up on Friday evening with an informal ‘farewell dinner function’ at Leura Golf Club.

### WEEKEND:

You can extend your stay a few days and explore this picturesque region popular with tourists and walkers by tour operator or hire car.

### 2022 PRE CONFERENCE TOUR

We have also planned a short pre-conference tour to give members a flavour of this scenic region on 2<sup>nd</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> of May. The intention of the tour is to explore the natural wonders of the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains area as well as some great food as well as some iconic cool climate gardens. We will explore Blue Mountains icons like the Three Sisters, Scenic World and Jenolan Caves as well as Mayfield Gardens and much more.

Pre-conference attendees will have the opportunity to meet on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May informally for dinner at the [Mercure Hotel](#) ((02) 4721 7700) or email [reservations@mercurepenrith.com.au](mailto:reservations@mercurepenrith.com.au). This is adjacent to the famous [Penrith Panthers Leagues Club](#), Cnr Mulgoa and Jamison Roads, PENRITH. It boasts a huge range of activities including [iFly Downunder](#), Aqua Golf, and various forms of entertainment. On Monday morning we will be met by bus to commence the tour. Book in early to avoid disappointment.

Pam Berryman ([pam@ipps.org.au](mailto:pam@ipps.org.au)) can be contacted for booking information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION PLEASE GO TO <https://aus.ipps.org/event-detail/event-134/IPPS-Australia-Annual-Conference-2022-Leura-Blue-Mountains-NSW-4th-to-6th-May-2022.html>



## Six Pack (Advance Notice)

Applications will open soon for the chance to be a 6 pack member at our Leura conference (May 4 to 6 2022). You will have your airfare, accommodation and conference registration paid for. What we ask is that you assist the organisers with registration and general duties during the conference, and seek and share.

You must be 18 years of age, and be nominated by your employer by completion of the IPPS Nomination Form and complete the candidate information sheet on the website <https://aus.ipps.org/about-content/awards/awards.html>

Send your forms (available soon) by the closing date of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022. You could have the privilege to meet some of the industry leaders.

## Rod Tallis Award

It is that time of year again when our young horticulturists need to be nudged and encouraged to apply for this prestigious award.

The award is named after one of the Society's most respected members, Rod Tallis. Rod was an avid nurseryman with a passion for plant propagating, for the IPPS and for the youth of our industry. He was a mainstay in many of the early conferences and made significant contributions to Plant propagation in Australia before his sudden death in 1981.

The winner will have completed a research project, written an article or series of articles or developed a new process or product. They will then write up their work in a paper to be presented at the next IPPS conference.

The paper will be assessed on issues or clarity, originality and relevance to the industry. The achievements of the applicant to date will also be reviewed.

So a worthy horticulturist at the start of their career can gain an award that they can be proud of and mark the start of a successful career in horticulture.

The winner will be invited to the Annual Conference in Leura, N.S.W. from 4th to 6th May 2022. They will have their airfare, accommodation and conference registration paid for. They will also receive one year's membership to the IPPS and a commemorative plaque.

Submit an application by 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2022. Contact details are on the IPPS website (see under members at <https://aus.ipps.org/about-content/awards/awards.html> )

## Lighting for Protected Cropping

Recently I was asked for some information on lighting for greenhouses for TAFE students, and that started a brief search that I am reporting on here.

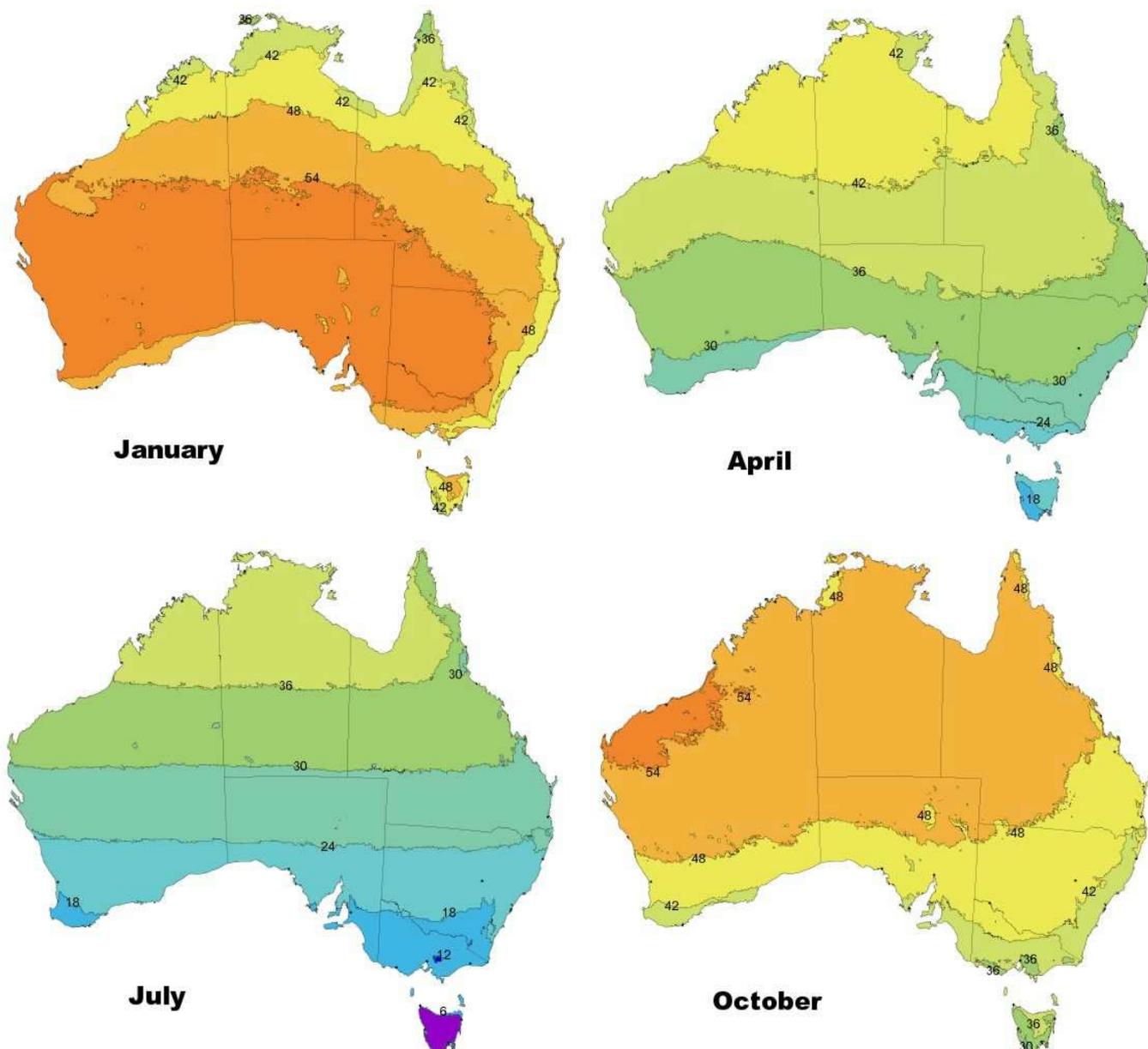
I could not readily find any information on lighting in greenhouses and what grade of shading was suited to the range of plants being grown when we started our nursery 20 years ago. Some years ago I wrote an article about greenhouse design and heating. With lighting (and summer cooling) the orientation of greenhouses is an important factor, especially for those further south than 40 degrees latitude (i.e. ideally East – West oriented in Tasmania and below Napier in New Zealand due to low sun elevation in winter, and North – South elsewhere in the Southern hemisphere). [NSW Department of Primary Industries](#) Greenhouse Structures and Tehnology / Light– provides an overview of greenhouse structures and lighting. [Glazing Materials, Structural Design, and Other Factors Affecting Light Transmission in Greenhouses](#), Prof. William J. Roberts, Bioresource Engineering, Rutgers University gives some indication of the affect of light transmission of different greenhouse covers.

Eight years ago Dr. Graeme Smith at the IPPS Melbourne conference spoke about the dramatic changes in horticultural production especially in protected cropping, and yields driven by technology. These included changes brought about through improved structural designs, plant forms, knowledge of plant nutritional, water and light requirements and our ability to measure and control these for the plants being grown.

In Spring 2014 in our newsletter I wrote about what we could do to review greenhouse heating in winter. Cooling requirements in Summer very much depend upon where you are situated and how you manage your crop. Greenhouse design, light intensity, elevation and proximity to wet humid coastal regions all affect this and need to be considered. So how do your structures measure up and what quick fix could you adopt to improve them?

High sided double insulated walls and gables with good venting, internal screens and possibly external coatings and or shade are some structural things to consider. A greenhouse full of plants in summer could also be over 10 °C cooler than an empty one just through the effect of evapotranspiration.

Most cooling strategies rely on the fact that as water evaporates it absorbs heat and cools the immediate air. Comparison between wet and dry bulb thermome-

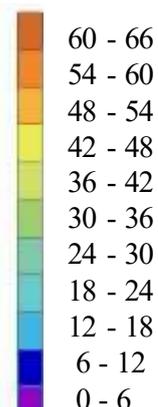


### Monthly Average Daily Light Integral Outdoors Across Australia

These graphs are based on data from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology for solar exposure (available for any locations across Australia for each month of the year) based on data from the period 1990 to 2011. The data was available in units of MJoules.m<sup>2</sup>.day<sup>-1</sup> and have been converted to DLI units for PAR light in the 400 to 700 nm part of the light spectrum for months in the middle of each season (approximately 1 MJm<sup>-2</sup>.d<sup>-1</sup> = 2 mol.m<sup>-2</sup>.d<sup>-1</sup> of PAR light). As these are only daily average figures variation will occur through more or less cloud cover and inclination of the sun. The further south you go in winter the shallower the angle of the sun and shorter the day length. In Summer the sun is higher in the sky and there is more solar exposure and longer days the further south you go. Total daily Sdar Exposure Data for each month across Australia in MJm<sup>-2</sup>.d<sup>-1</sup> can be found at :

[http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/ncc/climate\\_averages/sdar-exposure/index.jsp?period=apr#maps](http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/ncc/climate_averages/sdar-exposure/index.jsp?period=apr#maps)

### DLI (mol.m<sup>-2</sup>.d<sup>-1</sup>)

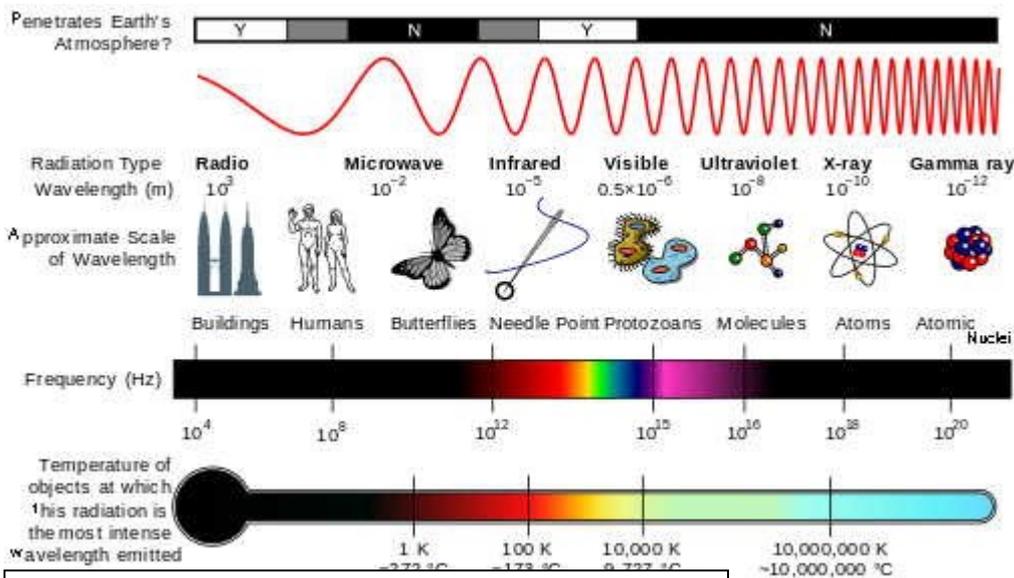


ters can give an idea how much this could help. Evaporative cooling is however more effective in less humid environments. Using misters, foggers and pad cooling systems all have their advantages, and are well outlined along with maintenance issues in the NSW Department of Primary Industries paper on “Evaporative Cooling in Greenhouses”

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/horticulture/greenhouse/structures-and-technology/evap-cooling>

But I digress as this article is more about controlling the visible light part of the light spectrum also for optimal growth conditions.

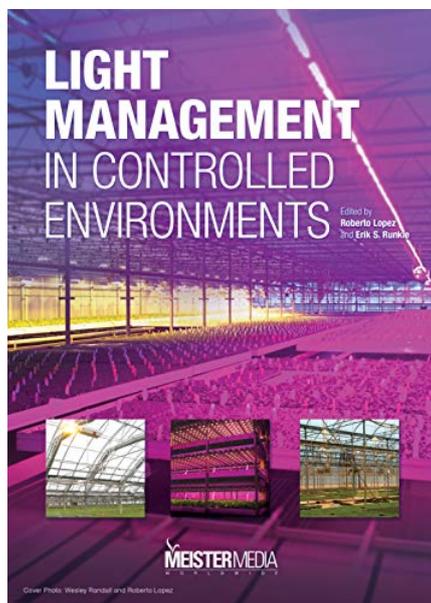
Much of the electromagnetic radiation from the sun penetrating the earth’s atmosphere is in the infrared



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(heat) and visible spectrum. Photosynthetically active radiation is in the visible part from 400 to roughly 700 nm wavelength. When in NZ attending the IPPS joint conference in 2014 I heard a great paper from Prof. Paul Fischer on light. I soon realised that seasonal Daily Light Integral information was not readily available for Australia so I decided to research and publish this in our IPPS newsletter in Spring 2015 (figures included above). This has been available for IPPS members, students and screen suppliers to assist growers since then. A simple guide to using this can also be found in this article [Measuring Daily Light Integral in a Greenhouse Ariana P. Torres and Roberto G. Lopez](#). This paper also includes a table of DLI requirements for common nursery plants from the Ball Red Book.

Unfortunately the 2004 published "Lighting Up Profits, Understanding Greenhouse Lighting" is now out of print, but there is an updated book available "Light Management in Controlled Environments" by Roberto Lopez and Erik S Runkle published in 2017.



Much has changed in lighting technology since the original book with LED's especially. "Light Management in Controlled Environments" is currently available on [Amazon.com.au](https://www.amazon.com.au) in hardcopy and Kindle.

Other editions of

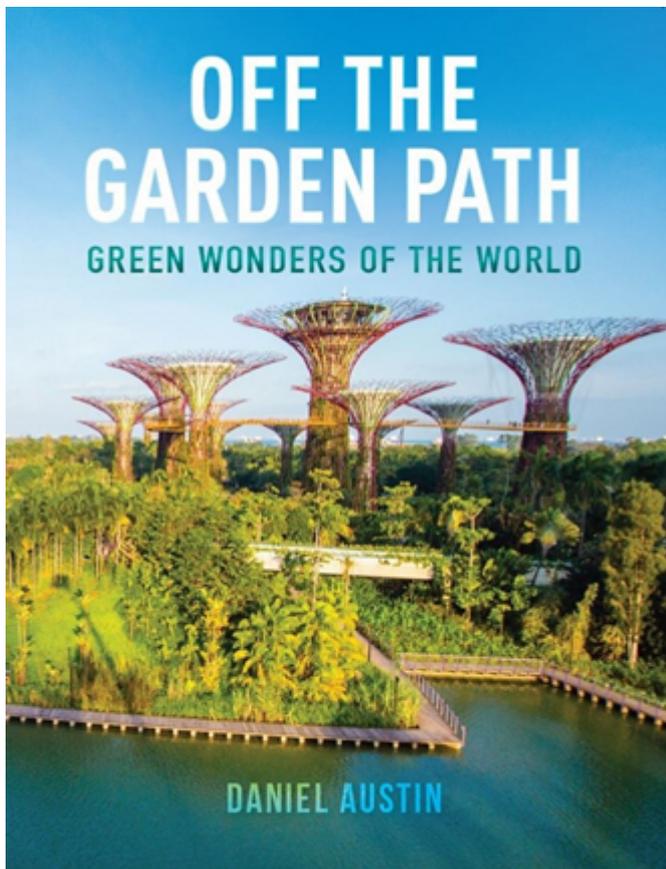
this newsletter have dwelt with the use of DLI or light meters, or even mobile phones with light metre apps and a bit of calculation to work out what is optimal for a crop, or check on lighting in the greenhouse or shade house. The only major drawback now is the lack of published DLI data for especially Australian natives.

Links to other resources (with hyperlinks for the online newsletter version)

can also be found at:

[MSU Extension Floriculture & Greenhouse Crop Production](#) This includes recent books and links to articles on lighting. Some examples include.

- [LED Lighting for Urban Agriculture](#), a book edited by Toyoki Kozai, Kazuhiro Fujiwara, and Erik Runkle
- [Use of Lighting to Accelerate Crop Timing](#) by Erik Runkle and Matthew Blanchard, Michigan State University.
- [Greenhouse Glazing](#) by A.J. Both, Rutgers University.
- [Light spectrum for different applications](#) Pub. September 8, 2021
- [Increasing the daily light integral](#) Pub. August 6, 2021
- [The indoor lighting guide: Growing seedlings under LEDs](#) Pub. July 1, 2021
- [Maximizing photosynthesis, minimizing respiration](#) Pub. March 8, 2021 An interesting read about the effect of increasing photosynthesis and decreasing respiration to increase growth, resulting in thicker stems with more branches, faster rooting and more and larger flowers (and fruit).
- [Making sense of light sensors](#) Pub. February 10, 2021 -Useful guide
- [How Adding Far - Red Radiation to Supplemental Lighting Affects Plugs](#) Pub. August 13, 2020
- [Indoor propagation](#) Pub. July 14, 2020
- [UV-transmitting greenhouse glazing](#) Pub. June 16, 2020



## **OFF THE GARDEN PATH, Green Wonders of the World**

Dan Austin is an award-winning photographer, writer, and lecturer with a passion for plants. His international experience documenting projects in the field has spanned four continents and over twenty years. Most of our IPPS membership know him from papers delivered at our conferences over the years.

Based in South Australia Dan is the primary contact for all enquiries and happy to provide additional information, images, and excerpts as required.

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Published by Beyond Green Australia

Format: Paperback

Release date: 20th October 2021

ISBN: 9780645228403

Pages: 164 RRP: \$54.99

Dan Austin's new release offers a remarkable botanical journey through some of Earth's most exotic locations in a celebration of photography, plants, and people.

Exploring floral terrain from truly remote tribal villages to the world's most populous cities, this is a book for anyone with an interest in the wonders of our planet.

Each chapter discusses an amazing horticultural site of interest accompanied by fantastic images and botanical factoids. Some are iconic, while others are off the beaten track, but all are extraordinary.

From the crumbling ruins of Petra to the cutting-edge conservatories synonymous with Singapore's skyline and everywhere in between, the traditional confines of a garden are tested, challenged, and transformed in this magnificently illustrated release showcasing over 300 full-colour images.

Over the years since its conception, the project has become an international collaboration with numerous centres of horticultural excellence abroad making contributions to the release. From the Bogor Botanic Gardens in Indonesia to the Jerusalem Botanic Gardens in Israel, even Singapore's Gardens by the Bay have played a significant part in the text reaching fruition.

The sites featured within the pages of this publication aren't your average gardens and the people are not your average gardeners, offering readers a chance to travel vicariously in a world of restrictions and inspiration for when the world opens up again.

Planned as part of a forthcoming series OFF THE GARDEN PATH: Green Wonders of the World will be followed by OFF THE GARDEN PATH: Green Wonder's of Australia and subsequent releases.

### **Applications Wanted**

#### **IPPS Australian Region Newsletter Editor**

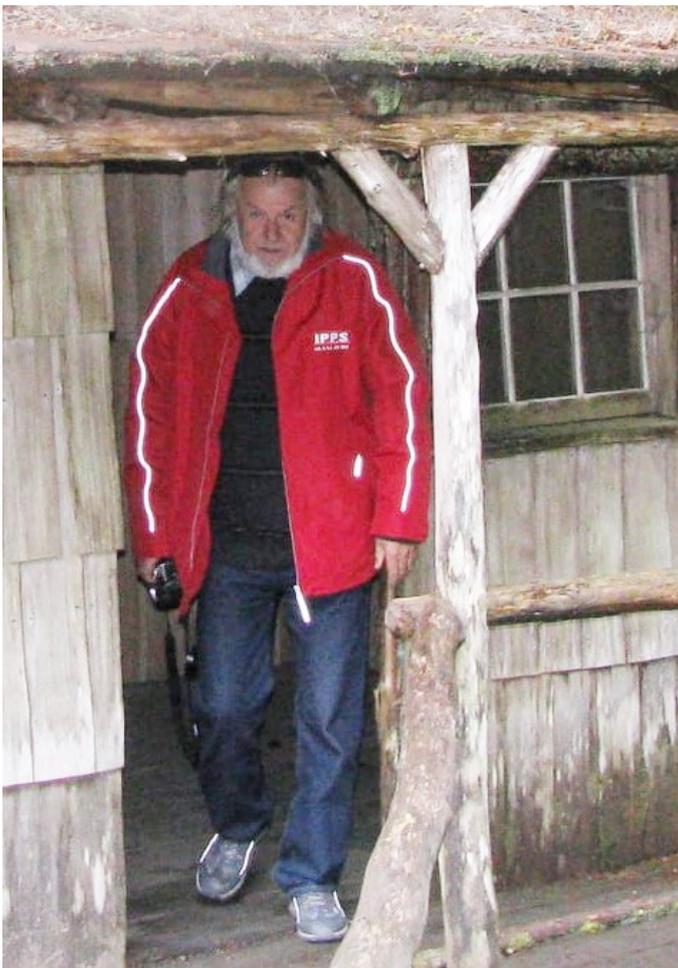
After being your IPPS newsletter editor for many years now it is time to hand this over to a new editor, who will work with the Editorial Team. This has meant publication of the newsletter and attendance at our conference. Our board is keen to receive proposals that will meet the future needs of our members. Please send your proposal along with qualifications/experience to Pam Berryman at [pam@ipps.org.au](mailto:pam@ipps.org.au) Bruce Higgs

**Vale Graeme Platt** 1941 - 2021

IPPS internationally is saddened to learn of the passing of Graeme Platt, who passed away peacefully in North Shore Hospital NZ on 1st October 2021.

Graeme contributed greatly to the botanical world and was a pioneer of the native plant industry in New Zealand. Starting as a passionate plant grower at home led to Platts Native Plant Nursery that closed in 1995 after 21 years operation. Graeme joined IPPS in 1979 and in 1994 was presented with the inaugural IPPS NZ Award of Merit to recognise his contribution in sharing knowledge. Graeme founded the New Zealand Botanical Research Institute in 1993 to continue his research into the economic potential of trees. He continued his studies into the timber potential of different species, and in 1994 he also received an Anzac Fellowship grant to study Eucalyptus trees in Western Australia for their potential in New Zealand. He received the prestigious RNZIH Plant Raisers' Award in 2011.

A life well lived as a passionate plantsman, with a legacy of plants throughout the country.



From IPPS NZ Region Facebook page photo

Planning is well underway for next year's conference at Leura NSW. Put the dates from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of May in your diary with a reminder to book in early in the New Year. **Is there someone you could speak to and invite them to be there as well? I remember well Peter Ollershaw recommending the Canberra 2001 conference to me, and I have not regretted joining the society since.**

In the next edition I hope to have a report on the recent Eastern Region online conference. In our Winter edition it was drawn to my attention that there was a typing mistake in the tribute to Ian Gordon. What the text was meant to say was that micropropagation lights of course are on for 16 hours and off for 8 hours.

I want to encourage members to share a video and perhaps gain some new skills along the way. If you have a mobile phone or camera then you could be well on the way. If you feel that you could assist with something like this for Australia then please contact your local board member or Pam.

It seems that Covid has resulted in a few current and past members feeling inspired to write some books with some spare time available. Knowing what both a pleasure and frustrating time this may have been, it was a pleasure to include the media release information from Dan Austen in our newsletter, and look forward to doing the same for other authors.

If you are not already a member join up soon. The region also has a [Facebook site](#) with horticultural news items, international events and photos as well from past conference tours and activities - search for "International Plant Propagators Society (IPPS) Australia".

**Pass your extra printed copy of the newsletter around at work.** A copy of this newsletter and a selection of previous ones are available in colour at <http://aus.ipps.org/news>

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